Economic Development Office
Grocery and Food Strategy Update
February 23, 2018

The Peoria community is working diligently to ensure residents have access to healthy food, and also working on developing and attracting grocery retail to the Southside and East Bluff neighborhoods. Our office would like to provide you an update on activities in the community.

Access to Grocery Stores

- Dream Center Peoria is providing bus shuttle services to grocery stores for residents in the Southside and East Bluff neighborhood.
- CityLink is marketing their existing bus routes to grocery stores through non-profit agencies and District 150 schools.
- Some community agencies and churches are providing transportation for their members and clients.

Alternative Food Strategies

- Senator Dave Koehler is leading a group of stakeholders to explore alternative food strategies, such as co-ops and food hubs. They are also researching grocery market trends for Peoria and educational opportunities related to nutrition and healthy food choices.
- The gitm foundation is developing a food hub on Adams St. (George Pasquel location)
- Food pantries and food banks are expanding food items and availability.
- Bradley University students developed a Gis map that maps the food banks and pantries in the Peoria area. Here is the link http://www.toddsit.com/ocprgroup.html

Grocery Store Attraction

- There is a Peoria County team working on attracting a regional or national grocery chain to the Kroger’s located on Harmon Hwy.
Mayor Ardis and Senator Koehler are in discussions with Kroger about options for the Wisconsin Kroger site which is owned by Kroger.

Our office is reaching out to grocery chains and speaking with independently owned grocers about opportunities in Peoria.

Recently, I had an opportunity to discuss urban and rural food desserts on At Issues, PBS show. Here is a link if you are interested, http://www.wtvp.org/programming/ai/2-3020.asp

The City of Peoria’s Grocery web page is populated with some of the above information and will continually be updated as we proceed. Click here to view the page, http://www.peoriagov.org/economic-development/

I’m sure there is much more activity in the Peoria community. Thank you for your interest and any work you have done to help our community have access to healthy food. We will keep you updated as we proceed.

For more information, contact Leslie L. McKnight, PhD, City Manager’s Office at lmcknight@peoriagov.org